

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (currently amended): An apparatus for protecting data using locks, the apparatus comprising: one or more processors and memory, configured to include:

a lock manager configured to control access via a lock to protected data maintained in native storage independent of the lock manager, wherein the lock manager does not access said protected data from said native storage; and

a plurality of requesters;

wherein the lock manager is configured to receive lock requests for the lock from each of the plurality of requesters, and to selectively grant said lock requests which includes communicating grants from the lock manager to the plurality of requesters, wherein at least one of said communicated grants includes said protected data.

Claim 2 (original): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein at least one of said communicated grants does not include said protected data.

Claim 3 (original): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein each of said communicated grants includes an indication of whether or not said protected data is being communicated therewith.

Claim 4 (original): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein each of said communicated grants includes an indication of whether or not said protected data is requested to be sent to the lock manager with a corresponding release of the lock.

Claim 5 (original): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein each of said lock requests includes an indication of whether or not the corresponding one of the plurality of requesters will accept said protected data from the lock manager.

Claim 6 (original): A method performed by a lock manager controlling access to protected data maintained in native storage independent of the lock manager, wherein the lock manager does not access said protected data from said native storage, the method comprising:

- receiving a release of a lock for use in controlling access to said protected data, the release including said protected data;

- identifying a next requester to be granted the lock in response to said receiving the release of the lock;

- copying said protected data from the release into a grant message; and

- sending the grant message to the next requester, the grant message including said protected data.

Claim 7 (original): The method of claim 6, wherein the grant message includes an indication of that said protected data is requested to be sent to the lock manager in a release message corresponding to the grant message if another requester is waiting for the lock, else an indication that said protected data is not requested to be sent to the lock manager in the release message.

Claim 8 (previously presented): A computer-readable medium tangibly storing thereon computer-executable instructions for performing steps by a lock manager for controlling access to protected data maintained in native storage independent of the lock manager, wherein the lock manager does not access said protected data from said native storage, said steps comprising:

- receiving a release of a lock for use in controlling access to said protected data, the release including said protected data;

- identifying a next requester to be granted the lock in response to said receiving the release of the lock;

- copying said protected data from the release into a grant message; and

- sending the grant message to the next requester, the grant message including said protected data.

Claim 9 (original): The computer-readable medium of claim 8, wherein the grant message includes an indication of that said protected data is requested to be sent to the lock manager in a release message corresponding to the grant message if another requester is waiting for the lock, else an indication that said protected data is not requested to be sent to the lock manager in the release message.

Claim 10 (original): A lock manager controlling access to protected data maintained in native storage independent of the lock manager, wherein the lock manager does not access said protected data from said native storage, the lock manager comprising:

means for receiving a release of a lock for use in controlling access to said protected data, the release including said protected data;

means for identifying a next requester to be granted the lock in response to said receiving the release of the lock;

means for copying said protected data from the release into a grant message and for sending the grant message to the next requester.

Claim 11 (original): The lock manager of claim 10, means for including in the grant message an indication of that said protected data is requested to be sent to the lock manager in a release message corresponding to the grant message if another requester is waiting for the lock, else an indication that said protected data is not requested to be sent to the lock manager in the release message.

Claim 12 (previously presented): A method performed by a lock manager controlling access to protected data maintained in native storage independent of the lock manager, wherein the lock manager does not access said protected data from said native storage, the method comprising:

receiving locking requests for a lock controlling access to said protected data from a first requester and a second requester;

sending a first grant message to the first requester, the first grant message not including said protected data, and in response to identifying one or more requesters is waiting for the lock after the first requester, including an indication to return said protected data in the first grant message; and

receiving a first release message corresponding to the first grant message for the lock from the first requester, the first release message including said protected data.

Claim 13 (original): The method of claim 12, comprising sending a second grant message to the second requester, the second grant message including said protected data, and an indication of whether or not to send said protected data in a second release message.

Claim 14 (original): The method of claim 13, wherein the second grant message includes an indication to send said protected data in the second release message in response to identifying another requestor is waiting for access to the lock.

Claim 15 (original): The method of claim 13, wherein the second grant message includes an indication not to send said protected data in the second release message in response to identifying another requestor is not waiting for access to the lock.

Claim 16 (original): The method of claim 13, wherein the second grant message includes an indication not to send said protected data in the second release message; and the method comprises in response to said indication not to send said protected data in the second release message, the second requester storing said protected data and not including said protected data in the second release message.

Claim 17 (previously presented): A computer-readable medium tangibly storing thereon computer-executable instructions for performing steps by a lock manager for controlling access to protected data maintained in native storage independent of the lock manager, wherein the lock manager does not access said protected data from said native storage, said steps comprising:

receiving locking requests for a lock controlling access to said protected data from a first requester and a second requester;

sending a first grant message to the first requester, the first grant message not including said protected data, and in response to identifying one or more requesters is waiting for the lock after the first requester, including an indication to return said protected data in the first grant message; and

receiving a first release message corresponding to the first grant message for the lock from the first requester, the first release message including said protected data.

Claim 18 (original): The computer-readable medium of claim 17, wherein said steps comprise sending a second grant message to the second requester, the second grant message including said protected data, and an indication of whether or not to send said protected data in a second release message.

Claim 19 (original): The computer-readable medium of claim 18, wherein the second grant message includes an indication to send said protected data in the second release message in response to identifying another requestor is waiting for access to the lock.

Claim 20 (original): The computer-readable medium of claim 18, wherein the second grant message includes an indication not to send said protected data in the second release message in response to identifying another requester is not waiting for access to the lock.

Claim 21 (original): The computer-readable medium of claim 18, wherein the second grant message includes an indication not to send said protected data in the second release message; and said steps comprise in response to said indication not to send said protected data in the second release message, the second requester storing said protected data and not including said protected data in the second release message.

Claim 22 (previously presented): A lock manager controlling access to protected data maintained in native storage independent of the lock manager, wherein the lock manager does not access said protected data from said native storage, the lock manager comprising:

- means for receiving locking requests for a lock controlling access to said protected data from a first requester and a second requester;

- means for sending a first grant message to the first requester, the first grant message not including said protected data, and in response to identifying one or more requesters is waiting for the lock after the first requester, including an indication to return said protected data in the first grant message; and

- means for receiving a first release message for the lock from the first requester, the first release message including said protected data.

Claim 23 (original): The lock manager of claim 22, comprising means for sending a second grant message to the second requester, the second grant message including said protected data, and an indication of whether or not to send said protected data in a second release message.

Claim 24 (original): The lock manager of claim 23, comprising means for including in the second grant message an indication to send said protected data in the second release message in response to identifying another requestor is waiting for access to the lock.

Claim 25 (original): The lock manager of claim 23, comprising means for including in the second grant message an indication not to send said protected data in the second release message in response to identifying another requestor is not waiting for access to the lock.

Claim 26 (original): The lock manager of claim 23, comprising: means for including in the second grant message an indication not to send said protected data in the second release message; and means for the second requester to store said protected data and not to include said protected data in the second release message in response to said indication not to send said protected data in the second release message.